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DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA REG, 77/1763

Date: 02/02/78 By: 008~~SECRET~~ CONFIDENTIAL

4 April 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Covert Action Staff

ATTENTION : Paramilitary Division

SUBJECT : Paramilitary Training Commitments

REFERENCE : Memo for DD/P through DD/S from D/Training,
same subject, dated 29 March 1960 (DD/P 0-1713)

1. I am passing along for your information the attached memorandum from the Director of Training. It does not seem to me to require any action on our part.

2. As I look over the list of courses and other training commitments, I am moved to suggest that the CA/PMD should take a hard look at the training that is being done. I do not mean to suggest by this remark that I have anything other than the most complete confidence in the way OTR does its job, nor do I believe it would be useful for us to try and second guess that office in any way. The question that is raised in my mind is whether OTR and PMD between them have made an up-to-date assessment of the kinds of paramilitary skills likely to be required in covert military activities.

3. By way of elaboration, I imagine there is a heavy emphasis in present PM training courses on strictly guerrilla techniques, such as [REDACTED] While these are of course important, it would seem to me that a broader training might be better suited to the kinds of tasks the trainees might have to perform. It would appear to me that the role of either staff members or principal agents whom we might employ in a paramilitary situation is apt to include:

a. The provision of strategic and technical advice and, in some cases, the de facto exercise of command.

b. Training in conventional light weapons (small arms, mortars, possibly armored cars, etc.).

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c. Stimulus and assistance in the development of secure communications nets.

d. Stimulus and assistance in the development of logistical equipment and procedures.

e. Stimulus and assistance in the maintenance of equipment.

If I am right and these are the kinds of tasks which we are training men to perform, I would guess that we might wish to place less emphasis on specific guerrilla techniques and more on the general nature of guerrilla and other small scale covert military operations.

4. No doubt this sort of assessment of requirements has been carried out sufficiently recently. If not, I would suggest that the matter be discussed with OTR at an appropriate opportunity.



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RICHARD M. FISSELL, JR.
Deputy Director
(Plans)

Encl:
Referenced Memo

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